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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,575	10/28/2003	Hiroshi Tojo	00862.022616	3547

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHU K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,575

Applicant(s)

TOJO ET AL.

Examiner

Phu K. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/24/06

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-918)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



PHU K. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2300

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 11-16, 24-29, 37-42, 50-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by ANDO et al. (EP 0945864).

As per claim 1, Ando teaches the claimed "moving image management apparatus for management of plural moving images recorded on a storage medium in correspondence with one or plural representative images", comprising: a unit configured to record a representative image representing an arbitrary section or the whole of a moving image" (Ando, column 5, lines 51-57); a unit configured to record information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image in correspondence with the representative image" (Ando, column 4, lines 10-43); and "a unit configured to record information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image in correspondence with the representative image, wherein in the case the representative image is designated by a user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected" (Ando, column 4, lines 37-43; column 7, lines 4-37).

Claim 2 adds into claim 1 "a unit configured to record information indicating a purpose for use of the representative image as attribute information in correspondence with the representative image; and a unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the purpose based on the attribute information" (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip).

Claim 3 adds into claim 2 "when the representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image" (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip; the function of browsing or editing is performed on the appropriate clip based upon its attribute indicating which window it belongs to).

Claim 11 adds into claim 3 "wherein said unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the purpose based on the attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to a browsing operation" (Ando, the reference icons 43A-43F and 75A-75G), and wherein said apparatus has a display unit that displays the representative image (Ando, display 31), further wherein application of function corresponding to the purpose to the selected

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section or the whole of the moving image is reproduction means for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display unit, reproducing a corresponding moving image based on section information added to the representative image (Ando, column 13, lines 6-17).

Claim 12 adds into claim 2 "wherein if an editing range is designated in a desired moving image, said unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the said purpose based on the said attribute information selects a representative image having the attribute information corresponding to an editing operation and within the editing range, and wherein said apparatus has a display unit that displays the representative image within the editing range" (Ando, column 7, lines 15-46).

Claim 13 adds into claim 3 "wherein in a print operation to print a desired frame in a desired moving image, said unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the purpose based on the attribute information selects a representative image having the attribute information corresponding to the print operation from representative images corresponding to said desired moving image" (Ando, column 7, lines 38-46), and "wherein said apparatus has a display unit that displays the representative image having the attribute information corresponding to the print operation" (Ando, figures 4 and 11 with the reference image's attribute information is the browsing or editing window indicator), further "wherein application of function corresponding to a designated purpose to the selected section or the whole of the

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moving image when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display unit, is output processing for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display unit, referring to the information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image, and outputting a desired frame for print output" (Ando, the in-point and out-point images indicate a position of the video image).

As per claim 14, Ando teaches the claimed " moving image management apparatus for management of plural moving images recorded on a storage medium in correspondence with one or plural representative images ", comprising: "a generation unit configured to generate a representative image representing an arbitrary section or the whole of a moving image " (Ando, column 5, lines 51-57); "a first recording unit configured to record information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image in correspondence with the representative image " (Ando, column 4, lines 10-43); and " a second recording unit configured to record information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image in correspondence with the representative image " (Ando, column 4, lines 37-43; column 7, lines 4-37).

Claims 27 and 40 claim a method based on the system of claims 1 and 14; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

Claims 53 and 54 claim a storage medium and a control program to perform the steps of claim 27; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

Claim 15 adds into claim 14 " an adding unit configured to add information indicating a purpose for use of the representative image as attribute information, a unit configured to record the attribute information added by said adding unit in correspondence with said representative image; and a unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the purpose based on the attribute information" (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip).

Claim 16 adds into claim 15 "when the representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image" (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip; the function of browsing or editing is performed on the appropriate clip based upon its attribute indicating which window it belongs to).

Claims 28-29 and 41-42 claim a method based on the system of claims 2-3 and 15-16; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

Claim 24 adds into claim 16 "wherein said unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the purpose based on the attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to a browsing operation" (Ando, the reference icons 43A-43F and 75A-75G), and wherein said apparatus has a display unit that displays the representative image (Ando, display 31), further wherein application of function corresponding to the purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image is reproduction means for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display unit, reproducing a corresponding moving image based on section information added to the representative image (Ando, column 13, lines 6-17).

Claim 25 adds into claim 15 "wherein if an editing range is designated in a desired moving image, said unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the said purpose based on the said attribute information selects a representative image having the attribute information corresponding to an editing operation and within the editing range, and wherein said apparatus has a display unit that displays the representative image within the editing range" (Ando, column 7, lines 15-46).

Claim 26 adds into claim 16 "wherein in a print operation to print a desired frame in a desired moving image, said unit configured to select only the representative image corresponding to the purpose based on the attribute information selects a representative image having the attribute information corresponding to the print

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operation from representative images corresponding to said desired moving image" (Ando, column 7, lines 38-46), and "wherein said apparatus has a display unit that displays the representative image having the attribute information corresponding to the print operation" (Ando, figures 4 and 11 with the reference image's attribute information is the browsing or editing window indicator), further "wherein application of function corresponding to a designated purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display unit, is output processing for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display unit, referring to the information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image, and outputting a desired frame for print output" (Ando, the in-point and out-point images indicate a position of the video image).

Claims 37-39 and 50-52 claim a method based on the system of claims 11-13 and 24-26; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-5, 10, 17-18, 23, 30-31, 36, 43-44, 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ANDO et al. (EP0945864) in view of ASAI et al. (EP 0 915469).

Claim 4 adds into claim 1 "a unit configured to record information indicating a purpose of the representative image as attribute information " (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip); and "a unit configured to classify only the representative image for each purpose based on the attribute information" which Ando does not explicitly teach. However, Ando teaches that "classifying scenes into a video scene browser" is well known in the art (Asai, page 8, lines 17-24). The motivation to modify Ando's system with a classification scheme of Asai system is orderly arranging the files within a specific group for simplifying the task of locating images in the database (Asai, page 8, lines 3-11).

Claim 5 adds into claim 4 "when the representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by

the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip; the function of browsing or editing is performed on the appropriate clip based upon its attribute indicating which window it belongs to).

Claim 17 adds into claim 14 "an adding unit configured to add information indicating a purpose of the representative image as attribute information; a unit configured to record the attribute information added by said adding means in correspondence with the representative image" (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip); and "a unit configured to classify means for classifying only the representative image for each purpose based on the said attribute information" which Ando does not explicitly teach. However, Ando teaches that "classifying scenes into a video scene browser" is well known in the art (Asai, page 8, lines 17-24). The motivation to modify Ando's system with a classification scheme of Asai system is orderly arranging the files within a specific group for simplifying the task of locating images in the database (Asai, page 8, lines 3-11).

Claim 18 adds into claim 17 "wherein when the representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving

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image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image" (Ando, column 4, lines 49-57; column 5, lines 49-53; column 6, lines 5-15; the type of the browser window 41 and selection windows 42 served as the attribute containing the purpose of the video clip; the function of browsing or editing is performed on the appropriate clip based upon its attribute indicating which window it belongs to).

Claims 30-31 and 43-44 claim a method based on the system of claims 4-5, 17-18; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

Claim 10 adds into claim 2 "wherein in said unit configured to record information indicating a purpose of the representative image as attribute information, the attribute information is an identification number previously defined for purpose" which Ando does not explicitly teach. However, Ando's attribute information such as file name, title, or labeled as editing or browsing file (Ando, column 5, lines 49-57; column 6, lines 25-51) can be coded in index form with each index corresponding to a classified group such as browsing group (Ando, window 41) or editing group (Ando, window 42). Furthermore, Asai teaches that using numerical index for attribute information is well known (Asai, page 8, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to label Ando's classified group of browsing or editing windows in a numerical index system as taught by Asai for the purpose of coding for simplification of record on the memory.

Claim 23 adds into claim 15 "in said unit configured to record information indicating a purpose of the said representative image as attribute information, the attribute information is an identification number previously defined for purpose" which Ando does not explicitly teach. However, Ando's attribute information such as file name, title, or labeled as editing or browsing file (Ando, column 5, lines 49-57; column 6, lines 25-51) can be coded in index form with each index corresponding to a classified group such as browsing group (Ando, window 41) or editing group (Ando, window 42). Furthermore, Asai teaches that using numerical index for attribute information is well known (Asai, page 8, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to label Ando's classified group of browsing or editing windows in a numerical index system as taught by Asai for the purpose of coding for simplification of record on the memory.

Claims 36 and 49 claim a method based on the system of claims 10 and 23; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

Claims 6-9, 19-22, 32-35, and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ANDO et al. (EP0945864) in view of PARULSKI et al. (5,440,401).

Claim 6 adds into claim 1 "when the information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the said representative image and the attribute information are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular continuous portion" which Ando fails to teach. However, Parulski teaches that such information storing is well known in the art (Parulski, column 4, lines 19-48). The motivation for modifying the Ando's reference image representation in view of the arranging of recorded data in a continuous portion is to provide with an immediate access to reference images in a rapid succession (Parulski, column 4, lines 43-48).

Claim 7 adds into claim 6 "when the information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image and the representative image are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular portion" (Ando, column 7, lines 28-51).

Claim 8 adds into claim 7 "the particular portion is a continuous area on the storage medium" which Ando fails to teach. However, Parulski teaches that such information storing is well known in the art (Parulski, column 4, lines 19-48). The motivation for modifying the Ando's reference image representation in view of the

arranging of recorded data in a continuous portion is to provide with an immediate access to reference images in a rapid succession (Parulski, column 4, lines 43-48).

Claim 9 adds into claim 7 "wherein only significant information of the said information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image and the representative image is recorded in a portion for easy storage and access" (Ando, column 7, lines 28-51; column 8, lines 38-53).

Claim 19 adds into claim 15 "wherein when the information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image and the attribute information are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular continuous portion" which Ando fails to teach. However, Parulski teaches that such information storing is well known in the art (Parulski, column 4, lines 19-48). The motivation for modifying the Ando's reference image representation in view of the arranging of recorded data in a continuous portion is to provide with an immediate access to reference images in a rapid succession (Parulski, column 4, lines 43-48).

Claim 20 adds into claim 19 "wherein when the information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image and the representative image are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular portion" (Ando, column 7, lines 28-51).

Claim 21 adds into claim 20 "the particular portion is a continuous area on the storage medium" which Ando fails to teach. However, Parulski teaches that such

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information storing is well known in the art (Parulski, column 4, lines 19-48). The motivation for modifying the Ando's reference image representation in view of the arranging of recorded data in a continuous portion is to provide with an immediate access to reference images in a rapid succession (Parulski, column 4, lines 43-48).

Claim 22 adds into claim 20 "wherein only significant information of the said information indicating a position of an image as a base of the representative image and the representative image is recorded in a portion for easy storage and access" (Ando, column 7, lines 28-51; column 8, lines 38-53).

Claims 32-35 and 45-48 claim a method based on the system of claims 6-9, 19-22; therefore, they are rejected under the same reason.

RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS:

Applicant's arguments filed 11/23/05 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

Applicant argues that Ando does not teach "recording information for indicating the position of an image as a base of the representative image" which is not correct. Ando teaches "the reference image and associated information of each of the video materials which satisfy the prescribed requirements can be displayed on a screen out of the plurality of video materials" (column 2, lines 2-5) in which the associated information indicates the position of an image as a base of the representative image (e.g., the time

line window 51 indicates the timing position of the moving images in display's time scale – column 7, lines 8-14; or the in-point and out-point designate an in-point and out-point in time scale – column 7, lines 15-27). Therefore, Ando's "timing" position on the time scale shows the claimed "recording information for indicating the position of an image as a base of the representative image". Accordingly, the claimed invention as represented in the claims does not represent a patentable distinction over the art of record.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phu K. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272 7645. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272 7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phu K. Nguyen
January 28, 2006


PHU K. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2300